

Applicants : Kenneth (NMI) Schofield, Mark L. Larson and Keith J. Vadas
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114. The rearview system of claim 113 wherein said wide angle view comprises an area at the back of the vehicle.

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115. The rearview system of claim 112 wherein said wide angle optical system comprises non-symmetrical optics.

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116. The rearview system of claim 112 wherein the output of said image capture device is corrected for distortion in the image captured by said wide angle optical system.

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117. The rearview system of claim 116 wherein said correction of said distortion is achieved electronically.

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118. The rearview system of claim 112 wherein said rearview vision system includes a distance-measuring system.

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119. The rearview system of claim 118 wherein said distance-measuring system is selected from the group consisting of a radar, an ultrasonic sensing, and an infrared detection distance-measuring system.

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120. The rearview system of claim 112 wherein said image capture device has a field of view which is symmetrical about the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

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121. The rearview system of claim 112 wherein said image capture device comprises a pixelated imaging array.

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122. The rearview system of claim 121 wherein said pixelated array comprises a CMOS imaging array.

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123. The rearview system of claim 112 wherein said display system comprises one of a flat panel display and a cathode ray tube.

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124. The rearview system of claim ~~112~~ wherein said display system comprises a flat panel display.

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125. The rearview system of claim ~~124~~ wherein said flat panel display comprises one of a liquid crystal display, a plasma display and a field emission display.

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126. The rearview system of claim ~~125~~ wherein said flat panel display comprises a liquid crystal display.

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127. The rearview system of claim ~~112~~ wherein said display system is positioned within the field of view of the driver without obstructing the view through the windshield.

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128. The rearview system of claim ~~112~~ wherein said display system is mounted to one of the dashboard, facia, header and windshield of the vehicle.

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129. The rearview system of claim ~~112~~ wherein said display system is mounted at a position conventionally occupied by an interior rearview mirror.

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130. The rearview system of claim ~~112~~ wherein said display system comprises display of one of a projected and a virtual image.

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131. The rearview system of claim ~~112~~ wherein said display system comprises a heads-up display.

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132. A rearview vision system for a vehicle having a gear actuator, comprising:
an image capture device mounted at the rear of the vehicle and having a field of view directed rearwards of the vehicle;

a display system viewable by a driver of the vehicle;

said image capture device utilizing a wide angle optical system comprising non-symmetrical optics in order to provide a wide angle view of an area rearwards of the vehicle;
and

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wherein said display system displays a rearward image output of said image capture device when the gear actuator of the vehicle selects a reverse gear to operate the vehicle in reverse.

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133. The rearview system of claim 132⁸² wherein said wide angle view comprises a view at a lower portion of said rearwards directed field of view of said image capture device.

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134. The rearview system of claim 133⁸³ wherein said wide angle view comprises an area at the back of the vehicle.

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135. The rearview system of claim 132⁸² wherein said display of said rearward image output of said image capture device is disabled when the vehicle's gear actuator is not in reverse gear.

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136. The rearview system of claim 132⁸² wherein the output of said image capture device is corrected for distortion in the image captured by said wide angle optical system.

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137. The rearview system of claim 136⁸⁶ wherein said correction of said distortion is achieved electronically.

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138. The rearview system of claim 132⁸² wherein said rearview vision system includes a distance-measuring system.

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139. The rearview system of claim 138⁸⁸ wherein said distance-measuring system is selected from the group consisting of a radar, an ultrasonic sensing, and an infrared detection distance-measuring system.

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140. The rearview system of claim 132⁸² wherein said image capture device has a field of view which is symmetrical about the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

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141. The rearview system of claim 132⁸² wherein said image capture device comprises a pixelated imaging array.

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142. The rearview system of claim 141 wherein said pixelated array comprises a CMOS imaging array.

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143. The rearview system of claim 132 wherein said display system comprises one of a flat panel display and a cathode ray tube.

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144. The rearview system of claim 132 wherein said display system comprises a flat panel display.

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145. The rearview system of claim 144 wherein said flat panel display comprises one of a liquid crystal display, a plasma display and a field emission display.

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146. The rearview system of claim 145 wherein said flat panel display comprises a liquid crystal display.

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147. The rearview system of claim 132 wherein said display system is positioned within the field of view of the driver without obstructing the view through the windshield.

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148. The rearview system of claim 132 wherein said display system is mounted to one of the dashboard, facia, header and windshield of the vehicle.

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149. The rearview system of claim 132 wherein said display system is mounted at a position conventionally occupied by an interior rearview mirror.

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150. The rearview system of claim 132 wherein said display system comprises display of one of a projected and a virtual image.

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151. The rearview system of claim 132 wherein said display system comprises a heads-up display.